

THE KNOXVILLE INDEPENDENT

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WHOLE NUMBER 1165

FRED A. BRITTEN



New photograph of Representative Fred A. Britten of Chicago, an original "big navy" man, who has worked persistently for the strengthening of the American navy and has criticized severely the delay in the construction of authorized vessels.

REBEL LEADER TAKEN

FORMER PRESIDENT GOMEZ, FORMER OF CUBAN TROUBLE, MADE PRISONER.

His Entire Staff Are in the Hands of Colonel Collazo, Commander of the Government Force.

Western Union Newspaper News Service.

Havana, March 8.—The news that former President Jose Miguel Gomez, leader of the rebels, and his entire staff were prisoners in the hands of Colonel Collazo, commander of the government forces operating near the dividing line between Santa Clara and Camaguey provinces was announced. It set the crowds about the presidential palace cheering wildly. The backbone of the rebellion is now regarded as broken. Secretary Montero appeared on the palace balcony and read a message from Secretary of the Interior Hevia, who has been in charge of the campaign in Santa Clara province, saying Colonel Collazo had reported the capture of Gomez and his staff in Camaguey province.

The men were said to have been captured after a battle lasting several hours, in which many are believed to have been killed or wounded. Machine guns played a prominent part in the rebel defeat.

Having received word that a considerable force under personal command of General Gomez and Colonel Figueroa were in the neighborhood of Arroyo Blanco, Colonel Collazo, with eight cavalry squadrons, one battalion of infantry and militia, set out to flank the rebels, coming in contact with them near Placetas. Colonel Consuegra, in Santa Clara, disposed his forces to prevent the rebels evading battle and continuing their flight westward. No other details of the actual operations have been given out, except that the rebels still are being pursued.

Buried in Ruins, Directs Rescuers. Philadelphia, Pa.—When the three-story macaroni factory of Luigi Verna collapsed it buried beneath it Verna's 18-year-old bookkeeper, Ida Coppola, who, while entangled under a mass of wreckage for an hour, shouted directions to the rescuing police and firemen, while 3,000 persons watched. Once, when it seemed that there would be a further collapse of the ruins, Father Mundi, of St. Paul's Catholic Church, crawled in and administered the last rites of the church to the girl through several feet of lumber. She was taken out and hurried to the Penn hospital. She is suffering from cuts, bruises and shock.

Industries in Belgium To Be Tied Up. Amsterdam.—The Telegraaf says there will be an almost complete stoppage of industries in Belgium within a few days, the German authorities asserting that this is necessary owing to the lack of coal and transportation facilities. Practically the entire population of Belgium will be thus unemployed, with such few exceptions as receive special permission from civil authorities to continue their businesses.

Sparta.—Because the demand for pigs in White county has been strong this year J. R. Mitchell, a farmer near here, has just returned from Peoria, Ill., where he bought three pure bred Poland-China sows at an average cost of \$107.50.

FINDS IT HARD TO HURRY NAVY

Daniels Confers With Shipbuilders, Who Say Speed Problem Is Puzzling.

LABOR IS MAIN DRAWBACK

Greatest Stress Will Be Laid on Quick Construction of Smaller Craft, Such as Submarine, Chasers and Destroyers.

Washington, March 8.—Machinery looking to the prompt execution of his program for speeding up naval construction was set in motion by Secretary Daniels. He conferred with representatives of the major shipbuilding companies and later with Secretary Wilson of the labor department and Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor.

President Wilson called at the navy department and talked with Mr. Daniels for some time. The president was told that even with an emergency fund of more than \$100,000,000 now available, backed by authority to require preference for navy orders, and if necessary to take over shipyards or other plants, it would be a difficult task to get ships rushed to completion.

Labor the Chief Problem. The companies asked to attend the meeting were the Fore River Shipbuilding company, the New York Shipbuilding company, William Cramp & Sons, the Electric Boat company, and the Lake Torpedo Boat company.

Proposals for 15 destroyers and for the scout cruisers left over from the preceding bill already have been advertised. Bids will be opened during the present month. Proposals for 33 additional 900-ton submarines will be advertised without delay. It was planned to place contracts for five battle cruisers in conference with shipbuilders and not by advertising. Plans for three 42,000-ton dreadnaughts will not be ready for advertisement for some weeks.

The shipbuilders will present detailed statements of what they might be able to do with additional funds in the way of speeding up.

The most serious problem is that of securing skilled labor, although suspension of the eight-hour law on government contracts is expected to help in this regard. Mr. Daniels asked the advice of Secretary Wilson and Mr. Gompers as to what steps to take to increase the supply of labor in the ship trades.

A conference of steelmakers and other concerns which supply material for the navy will be called shortly.

Builders Want More Time. Secretary Daniels said the shipbuilders with whom he conferred showed every desire to co-operate with the government. He pointed out, however, that where he wished to talk about building destroyers in a year the shipbuilders talked of two years.

If the secretary invokes the power to commandeer plants it will not be done until he has a definite understanding of the entire situation. The problem, he said, was to spend the emergency fund and use the unusual powers wisely so that the best results could be obtained.

The greatest stress will be laid, it is understood, on quick construction of smaller craft, such as submarine chasers, submarines and destroyers. At the same time the eight new capital ships, five battle cruisers and three monster dreadnaughts, must be laid down in addition to new scout cruisers.

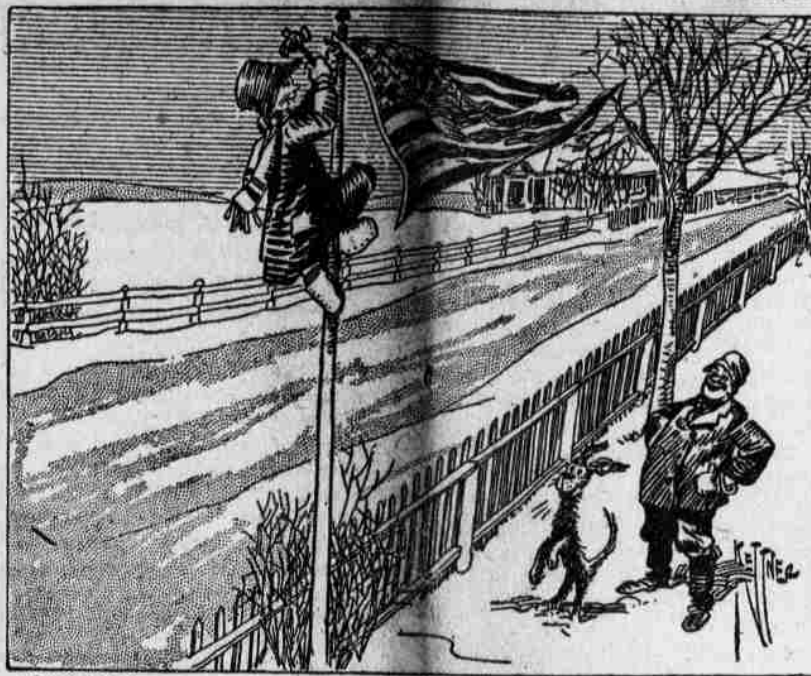
To obtain submarine chasers the department plans to call upon small boat builders along both coasts, the hulls to be of wood in order to relieve the steel trades and steelworks of the strain.

Bids for Airships. Bids for eight or more nonrigid dirigible airships for coast and harbor patrol work opened by the navy disclosed offers from five companies, with prices for one airship ranging from \$71,500 to \$47,000 and deliveries in 120 days. Five million dollars have been appropriated and the number of airships will be determined later.

The machines are designed to operate from shore bases, but could rest on the surface of the water in good weather. Each dirigible will carry two men, a pilot and an observer, and be equipped for radio communication. They will have 100-horse power motors, a maximum safe altitude limit of 7,500 feet, and at 600 feet a maximum speed of 45 miles an hour for ten hours.

Bristol.—After defeating several propositions to issue bonds for roads, Johnson county finally voted by a majority of about 400, to issue bonds in the sum of \$200,000 to construct certain main highways.

FLY YOUR FLAG



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AUSTRIA'S REPLY DELAYS A BREAK

Answer Upholds U-Boat Warfare as Now Operated in Restricted Area.

DOOR IS AJAR FOR PARLEY

Tone of Note Declared Conciliatory and It Is Intimated Both Nations Desire to Avoid Final Rupture—Officials Are Silent.

Washington, March 8.—There will be no immediate break between the United States and Austria-Hungary. This was indicated plainly today, the receipt at the state department of a reply from Vienna to the aide memoire presented to Austrian foreign office by Ambassador Penfield on February 18.

The reply is now before the president and secretary of state.

Officials are silent for the most part and probably will be until it is completely studied.

The note was generally held to be conciliatory, and it was indicated strongly that the United States will make no move which will shut the door to an operating agreement between the two nations.

Won't Burn Last Bridge.

Both America and Austria appear to be unwilling to burn the last bridge which connects the central empires with the western world.

The Austrian note was declared by well-informed officials to be satisfactory in two important respects. These are:

Austria definitely and solemnly renews the pledges she made to this government in the Ancona case. These pledges at the time were considered satisfactory. They were assurances that nonbelligerent vessels would not be torpedoed without warning and without due provision being made for the safety of passengers and crew.

Although Austria announces her intention of co-operating unreservedly with Germany in submarine warfare, nevertheless she states that whenever and wherever possible she will warn merchantmen entering barred zones and will look to the safety of those aboard.

Austria, in this connection, declares that she is carrying on undersea warfare in the Mediterranean and Adriatic only, and thus intimates that cases in dispute in the Atlantic should be discussed with Germany.

Claims Warning Sufficient.

The most unsatisfactory part of the note, in the opinion of officials, is that Austria contends she is entitled to announce barred zones on the high seas and that, having created them and warned the world of their establishment, such a general warning is sufficient for all shipping.

The United States takes direct issue with this policy. The state department holds that a general warning is not enough, and that each vessel is entitled to individual warning. The United States is generally known to be reluctant to cut off the last line of communication between America and the central powers.

The conciliatory tone of the Austrian note indicates a similar disposition on the part of that monarchy.

For this reason it is generally believed there will be no precipitate action by this government.

Franklin.—The Rev. John Matthews of South Carolina, is conducting a mission at St. Paul's Episcopal church here.

WALSH HURLS DENUNCIATION

Montana Senator Says It's Not Inconceivable That the Filibusters Are Traitors.

Washington, March 8.—Senator Walsh of Montana, urging revision of the senate rules, hurled a torrent of denunciation upon "the little group of willful men" who killed the armed neutrality bill Sunday afternoon.

"It is not inconceivable," he said, "that the obstructionists—the filibusters—may be actuated by traitorous sentiments. What say you, can the senate make a rule under which it may be held at bay by treachery until a foreign foe shall have prevailed over a supine nation?"

He called attention to the fact that in 1861 ten senators were expelled for treason.

TO RUSH MODIFIED CLOTURE

President Approves Bipartisan Campaign in the Senate to Kill Filibustering.

Washington, March 8.—President Wilson approved the bipartisan campaign in the senate to prevent a recurrence of filibusters such as killed his armed neutrality bill in the final hours of the Sixty-fourth congress. He conferred at length with Senators Reed, Owen, Walsh, Swanson, Hoke Smith and James and suggested a plan to bring up the modified cloture proposal in the senate. At that time Senator Walsh will be placed in the chair temporarily for the purpose of rushing the reform into effect.

RAIL UNION HEAD TALKS

Disappointed Because U. S. Supreme Court Did Not Rule on the Adamson Law.

Cleveland, O., March 8.—Although plainly disappointed because the United States Supreme court did not rule on the constitutionality of the Adamson eight-hour law, the big four brotherhood heads declined to state whether the delay would affect their plans.

"I wouldn't hurry them for anything," said W. G. Lee, head of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen. "Let 'em take their time. Perhaps we'll all be dead when the court gets around to a decision and another generation will hear the edict."

U. S. WARNS CUBAN REBELS

Naval Commander at Santiago Promises to Aid in Re-establishing Peace on Island.

Santiago, Cuba, March 8.—Warning that both the United States consul and the commander of the United States naval forces at this port have promised to aid in re-establishing peace, was issued to the Cuban rebels in a proclamation issued by J. Garcia Munoz, civil governor, today.

Munoz, who supplanted the former military governor, Loren de Mola, pointed out that Commander Belknap of the United States naval forces has issued a proclamation, upholding the government and warning all offenders that they will be punished severely for taking up arms.

RELIEF STORES ARE BURNED

Supplies Belonging to the Belgian Commission Lost in Fire at Hasselt.

Amsterdam, March 8.—Twenty thousand kilos of coffee belonging to the Belgian relief commission were lost in a fire which destroyed a storehouse at Hasselt, according to the Telegraaf. A quantity of other foodstuffs also was burned. The Telegraaf says that two persons have been reported to Germany in connection with the fire.

WILSON DECIDES TO ARM AMERICAN MERCHANT SHIPS

President Is Advised That He Has Power to Act in Matter.

READY TO SEIZE WAR PLANTS

Secretary Daniels Announced That He Would Use the Powers Granted Under the New Naval Bill if It Became Necessary.

Washington, March 8.—American merchant ships are to be armed by the United States government and sent on their voyage to the ports of the seven seas regardless of submarines, "barred zones" and other obstacles which the war has placed in the path of American commerce.

President Wilson definitely decided on this step. Fortified with the opinion of Attorney General Gregory that he has the authority to make such a move, with the approval of administration supporters in congress, and the legal advisers of the government, the president is convinced that he is acting within his rights, even though the congressional approval which he sought before the death of the Sixty-fourth congress was withheld.

President Has Power.

The president, it became known on highest authority, has been told he has the power to do this.

Immediately the order is issued, Secretary Daniels will instruct commanders of navy yards at Boston, Philadelphia and other points to issue the guns they have available.

In the meantime arrangements for additional armament will be rushed to completion.

The president's decision was reached shortly after a conference at the White House with senators.

Secretary Lansing was called to the White House to see the president just before the departure of the senators. The conference also was attended by Secretary McAdoo. It continued for more than an hour.

Some of the administration officials were urging on President Wilson their view that he legally may arm merchant ships without awaiting express authority which congress might give if called in special session. They argued that the old law passed in 1819 forbidding a merchantman to fire on "a public armed vessel of a nation in amity with the United States," would not apply to the present situation.

The president heard these views with keen interest, and indicated that he is seeking some legal means of acting promptly, but would prefer congressional approval.

President Wilson expressed in forceful language his disappointment over the senate's failure to pass his armed neutrality bill, in an informal talk at a White House luncheon to the members of the Democratic national committee.

The underlying principles of democracy were declared by Mr. Wilson as the only principles on which governments can endure and on which permanent world peace can be maintained. He said the consent of the governed must be behind governments. The president referred to the condition of Alsace-Lorraine as typical of causes of war which must be avoided.

Ready to Seize Yards.

The government will seize private shipyards if a survey of building facilities does not show that the building of warships can be speeded up under present conditions.

Secretary Daniels announced that he would use the powers granted under the new naval bill if it became necessary.

The secretary reached this decision after conferring with representatives of large shipbuilding companies.

Daniels also discussed the question of labor with Secretary of Labor Wilson and Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor. The power to commandeer yards can be exercised by proclamation of the president in time of war or national emergency.

Waverly.—Cass Carter, of Turkey Creek, in the northern part of the county, on the Tennessee river, accidentally shot his wife with a shotgun, the load entering her left side, just under the arm, killing her instantly.

Friendship.—In a hotly contested municipal election in this city, Thad Haley was elected mayor for the third term, defeating F. S. Moore by a majority of 12 votes. Mr. Moore was the first mayor of Friendship, and served two terms.

RAYMOND T. BAKER



Raymond T. Baker of Nevada who was named by the president to be director of the mint. He was private secretary of G. T. Marye when the latter was ambassador to Russia.

GERMAN PLOT IN CUBA

Arrests Reveal Teuton Conspiracy to Aid Insurgents.

Seized Papers Furnish Proof, According to the Havana Police Officials—Direct Evidence.

Havana, March 8.—Direct evidence of Germany's aid to the Cuban rebel cause was declared to have been uncovered in examination of papers found after the arrest of Dr. Luis Octavio Divino, a well-known liberal leader, and two members of the Cuban congress. According to police officials, a proclamation signed by revolutionary leaders, a copy of which was discovered in Divino's home, contained the statement that "Germany has promised to aid."

Since the news reached Cuba of the German plan to embroil Mexico and Japan with the United States much interest has been taken in the stories of German intrigue in Cuba with the object of fomenting rebellion. Before the text of the Zimmermann note was made public, little credence was placed in such stories, but the Cuban public generally now is becoming more inclined to this view. Two Germans have been arrested, one of them known to be a close friend of ex-President Gomez, one of the leaders in the rebellion. The other is held on suspicion of being a spy; he is alleged to have been caught in the act of making drawings of the coast near Pinar del Rio.

According to El Mundo, a number of American detectives are in Havana working in harmony with Cuban detectives with the object of ascertaining if there exists here a branch of an organization known under the name of "The Iron Cross," which is alleged to be perfectly organized in Mexico, having for its purpose the spreading of anti-American propaganda in Latin-American countries. Members of the association, says El Mundo, are distinguished by an iron finger ring, on which is an iron cross.

Havana, March 8.—Further collapse of the Cuban revolution was seen here in the surrender of Pedro Sanchez del Portal, liberal candidate for governor of Santa Clara province and one of the leaders of the rebellion. He will be brought to Havana from Santa Clara. President Menocal has issued a statement declaring that the Santiago rebels must surrender or be driven into the sea.

ALL MILITIA ORDERED HOME

National Guardsmen to Be Mustered Out of United States Service Before April 1.

San Antonio, Tex., March 8.—Return of all National Guardsmen to their home stations and their mustering out before April 1 was ordered from military headquarters here as a result of the failure of congress to pass the army appropriation bill. Dates for the departure of organizations still on the border were set forward several days in the order.

RUSS CRUISER HITS MINE

Berlin Reports 15,000-Ton Warship Is Heavily Damaged in Finland Bay.

Berlin, March 8.—The Russian armored cruiser Rurik (or Rurik) of 15,000 tons, struck a mine in "Inland bay" and was heavily damaged, said a Stockholm dispatch to the Transocean news agency.